



**Icy Straits Advisory Committee
January 04, 2023
Teleconference & Hoonah City Hall**

I. Call to Order: 5:02 by Casey McConnell

II. Roll Call

Members Present:

Name	Present?
Mark Ortega	Y
Larry Landry	Y
Jeff Skaflestad	Y
Bill Mills	N
Faith Grant	Y
Casey McConnell	Y
Duane Jack	Y
James Jack	Y
Bill Miller	Y
Andy Savland	Y
Ian Johnson	Y
Aaron StClair	N
Calvin Casipit	Y
Vacant	Undesignated
Vacant	Undesignated

Members Absent (Excused):

Members Absent (Unexcused):2

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 11

List of User Groups Present:



- III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Roy Churchwell, Steve Bethune, Annie Bartholomew
- IV. Guests Present: Bob Koenitzer, Amy Courtney, Jackie Dick, Jacob Pratt, Julian Narvaez
- V. Approval of Agenda

Calvin Casipit – Motion to approve the agenda

Ian – Second

None opposed

When commercial closes – discussion to open inland waters for king salmon. Cost of fuel is high and no subsistence fishing right now. When is next BOF meeting for SE AK? 2024/2025. Call for proposals goes out in late 2023 or early 2024

Board of Game [Southeast Region proposals](#): 1,2,4,5,7,9,10,11,12,13,14,30,31,32

Discussion for consideration of a letter surrounding proposals 45-54

Other business

- VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Bill Miller – motion to accept meeting minutes from December 7 2022 and February 15 2021

Calvin Casipit – Second

None opposed

- VII. Reports
 - a. Chair's report - None
 - b. ADF&G – None
 - c. Public Report
 - d. Others

- VIII. Public Comment

- IX. Old Business

- X. New Business
 - a. Board of Game Proposals



Alaska Board of Fisheries: Southeast and Yakutat Proposals January 4-15, 2022 Ketchikan, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support/ Support as amended/ Oppose/ No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (pros & cons), Voting Notes, Amendments
<p><i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i></p>			
1	Require certified hunter safety education to hunt in Units 1 - 5		
	0	11	<p>ADF&G – In favor of these because of the safety factor, but not feasible due to staffing. They are neutral on this proposal.</p> <p>Casey M Motion – Support and approve as written. Calvin Casipit - Second</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal doesn't make sense here because of the delivery system for it in rural communities - Most hunt with uncles and dad - Not all rural communities have good internet to serve them remotely
2	Require hunter orientation for hunting goat in Southeast Region units		



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	1	10	<p>ADF&G – Department is neutral on this proposal. Doesn't have a direct impact on goat populations. Important to be able to distinguish males and females. There are other mechanisms to solve this – a higher penalty for shooting a nanny</p> <p>Calvin Casipit – Support proposal two as written Jeff Skaflestad – Second</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal doesn't address a serious conservation issue. There are other restrictions that can be used for conservation at a local basis - Internet connectivity too difficult - Region-wide proposal is not appropriate because of impact on remote areas in SE - The content of the video is very helpful in identifying sex of the sheep
4	Change the resident bag limit for brown bear in Unit 1 to one bear every two years		



			<p>ADF&G – Opposed to it. This would change the mainland portion of 1A – 1D. This changes it from 4 years to 2 years. There is conservation concerns in 1D and they are managing those closely. The number of DLPs in a season would change the number of bears harvested there. The identified issue of population increase in some areas isn't totally true. The current regulation will reduce harvest because they are seeing increased hunters.</p> <p>What area are we in? We are in unit 4, this is for the mainland – so impacting Gustavus</p> <p>Mark – saw greater bear populations on Couverden. Would support this because there aren't many brown bear hunters and it would increase opportunity</p> <p>Casey - Could bear could be closed by emergency orders? Yes, but since BB are trophy hunts by guides, it would impact their hunts. They try to stay away from that to no impact trophy hunts.</p> <p>Casey – with one BB every four years, how often do the point quotas get maxed out for the regions? How often do they reach max harvest? – point quotas only exist in 1D.</p> <p>Casey - How many guides hunt homeshore? Chilkat has 1 guide with two hunts. 1D has 4 guides. Limits come from the USFS.</p> <p>Larry – what is the resident harvest on Homeshore towards Couverden?</p> <p>Motion – Andy Savland – Support proposal 4 Mark Ortega 2nd Jeff Call for question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- There are plenty of people who could hunt bears, decreasing years wouldn't help- There aren't many people that who actually hunt bears- Lots of bears coming out of the park from Glacier Bay- Local people seeing a lot of extra bears
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Not a good idea to weight the 1D issues into whether we support or don't support- Most of the time brown bears are shot they are not consumed
5	Change the waterfowl season in Units 1 - 4 by creating a split season		



			<p>ADF&G – Brings consistency to waterfowl season. Current season is alternating based on even and odd years for start date. Causes confusion in hunters. Anyone who wants to hunt late can hunt late and early hunters can hunt late, but we close in the middle of the season. Can only have 107 waterfowl days.</p> <p>Do we support it? When should the closure be?</p> <p>Calvin Casipit – move to support as written Ian – Second</p> <p>Bob Koenitzer – The current regulation doesn't really work. Administration is tough, the best season is the Sept 15- Dec 31. Most birds around then and this year there was a late migration. Going back to one consolidated hunt. Having a mid season closure is not good. Later season would be the sea duck seasons. Most hunters are out there from Sept 15 – Dec 31.</p> <p>Mark – Do a lot of hunting in September. Having September 16th</p> <p>Did F&G support the alternative season regulation back in the day?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Late migration, not as many bird around in early September- Quality of birds not as good September 1st- Most birds are September 15 and dwindling by mid December- Doesn't make it any easier to close the season in the middle of the season. Doesn't make it any easier to remember- The season used to be Sept 1 – December 16th season. Weather and light conditions are better in September. Lose quite a few shooting hours by shifting to the later part of the season. <p>Motion 5A – Andy Savland – Make a motion support a waterfowl season through September 1st – December 16th. Calvin – Second</p>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - September 1st has more daylight and time, but there aren't birds there. Migration timing has changed a lot. Not a lot of birds in September.
7	Extend marten trapping seasons to align with wolverine seasons in portions of Units 1 - 4 and 5		
			<p>ADF&G – Neutral on this. Extends marten season Units 1-3 except for Kuiu and Unit 4 remainder. Would be from November 10 – last day of February</p> <p>Calvin – Move to support motion 7 Bill Miller – Second Andy - QUEStion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides additional opportunity for trappers - Aligns several species together into a season which would benefit trappers - Marten prices are way down, most of the trapping is value-added products.
9	Extend the wolverine trapping season to March 15 in Units 1 - 5		



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	9	2	<p>ADF&G – This would unalign seasons. They are opposed to this because wolverine are in the den by the end of the season. They start denning in February and females are vulnerable with pups</p> <p>Subsistence season in 1-5 ends March 1st.</p> <p>Why are they easier to target in den? – has to do with territory size. Males have a broad territory, but females with kits have a smaller territory. They have a faster revisit time.</p> <p>Andy – Motion to support the proposal as written Bill Miller – Second</p> <p>-Doesn't align with the federal season. Makes it difficult to keep the seasons all as one -This would go against our vote in #7 - Doesn't promote the sustainability of wolverine trapping</p>
10	Decrease the bag limit to four deer in Unit 4, Remainder		



	11	0	<p>ADF&G – public proposal for a bag limit reduction in unit 4 remainder. This doesn't affect NE Chichagof east port federick and North of Tenakee. There was a 4 deer bag limit prior to 2019. This is for non-federally qualified users – they still have 6 bag limit. Average additional harvest of 88 deer/year based on increase from 4-6. Department stance is 4 deer is enough for most, but there is sustainable harvest is possible at 5-6 deer. This proposal was submitted in response to the federal proposal.</p> <p>Current in Hoonah – if you are hunting Westport on Private land the deer limit is 6. If we go to this proposal it would change limits on private land.</p> <p>Jacob – Unit 4 deer, does this apply to non-local or non-federally? If you are a Hoonah resident you would be able to hunt 6 deer on federal lands.</p> <p>Calvin – Move to support as written Andy – second</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most people who hunted NE chich this year it was slow for a lot of people. This differs from what the biologists are saying. - This proposal is aligns with #11 which was submitted by a local
11	Decrease the bag limit to four deer in Unit 4, Remainder		
			<p>Motion Ian – Take no action on #11 based on results of #10 Casey – Second</p> <p>None opposed</p>
12	Open the Mitchell Bay Closed Area in Unit 4 to brown bear hunting		



		11	<p>ADF&G – Neutral for it biologically. There is a lot of complexity here. This area was created in 1991 to make bear viewing and economic opportunities. Created to reduce conflict. Created to reflect cultural importance. F&G studies do not support that Brown bear are drivers of deer populations. Brown bear hunting isn't a common use by hunters in the area.</p> <p>Albert Howard – Angoon organizations oppose it. The area is close to town and they don't want wounded bears to be their problem. Anything w/in 600 feet of the boundary is on private land. There is also competition for other resources with bear hunters (pulling crab pots)</p> <p>Andy – Motion to support as written Cal – Second</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Testimony from Angoon is powerful and outlines the concerns- There is a lot of history in the spot as a closed area. There wasn't any consultation of the proponent to the community of Angoon
13	Change the RB088 hunt boundary in Unit 4 to include Northeast Chichagof, and increase the allowable harvest for brown bear		



		11	<p>ADF&G – Opposed to this proposal. There are conservation concerns if there were to pass. The changes could result in decline bear populations. Increase user conflict. There are two parts – one changes the boundary of the “inside outside hunt” and the harvest level of bear populations. Brown bear harvest is guided by brown bear management strategy – pandoras box to open this up. Proponent states will decrease deer predation, but bears aren’t a primary deer driver.</p> <p>Ian Motion to support as written Calvin – second</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creates competition along the coastline - Doesn’t meet the intent of the proposal of reducing conflict bears or impacting deer populations
14	Change the brown bear hunt area for RB088 in Unit 4 to include all of Lisianski Inlet drainage		
		11	<p>ADF&G – Changes “inside and outside hunt” in Lisanski. Neutral on this because not forecasting biology. However, could increase user conflict and difficult to change the brown bear management strategy. Would increase 11 days of hunting and follow the guide use boundarriers in that area. The hunt boundary “skips” Lisanski – if this passes it would open Lissanski until May 31st. Current dates have been in place for >40 years and have been successful. Brown bear strategy has been working good.</p> <p>Calvin – motion to support 14 Second – Bill Miller Question Andy</p>
30	Open a fall archery goat hunt in Unit 1C, the southern end of the Chilkat Peninsula		



		11	<p>ADF&G – Create an archery-only hunt Aug 1 – Aug 3. Extends the season. Extends hunt by 1 month but archery only.</p> <p>How many goats are harvested by archery in Juneau? There’s 8 points there. 1 points for Billy and 2 for a nanny. So, up to 8 goats taken. Have never reached that limit.</p> <p>This area could probably support more harvest</p> <p>Federal subsistence goat season is Aug 1 – September 30, but by state permit. We can hunt on August 1st? The state tags are only used for tracking of harvest.</p> <p>Andy – this would open up to nonfederally qualified</p> <p>Ian – motion to support proposal 30 as written Second Andy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Doesn’t create any more opportunity for people in Hoonah or Gustavus - Creates higher competition from non-rural users and competition with subsistence hunters. - The points are never filled, the opportunity is already there to hunt
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31	Lengthen the resident, registration goat hunt in Unit 1C, the Southern end of the Chilkat Range		
	3	8	<p>ADF&G – similar to the previous proposal. Increases the season by a month only. Its for residents only. Similar to previous one except no weapon restriction.</p> <p>Jeff – would this impact the population? No, there’s a lot of points available, but doesn’t impact population.</p> <p>Calvin – motion to support 31 Andy – second Question -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current federal season can hunt August 1st. adds hunting opportunity for non-rural users only. Increase competition to local users. -



32	Restrict hunters who take nanny goat in Unit 1D from hunting goat the following regulatory year in Unit 1D		
			<p>ADF&G – this proposal may go unit wide. Looking for comments from other ACs on that. This would restrict hunters who take a nanny. They are trying to keep people from taking female goats. This was put out by the AC up there to limit female harvest.</p> <p>Is it more likely that locals will take nanny's? More likely that local hunters will take a nanny.</p> <p>Who is proposing it? The AC who would be impacted.</p> <p>Motion – Calvin – Move to support proposal 32 as written as it applies to 1D but not the expansion of the proposal to unit wide.</p> <p>Andy – second</p> <p>As a comment :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Support of this could lead to under reporting.-



Name	1	2	4	5	5A	7	9	10	11	12	14	30	31	32
Mark Ortega	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Larry Landry	N	Y	N	N	A	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Jeff Skaflestad	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Bill Mills	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Faith Grant	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Casey McConnell	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Duane Jack	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
James Jack	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Bill Miller	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Andy Savland	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Ian Johnson	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Aaron StClair	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Calvin Casipit	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Vacant	Undesignated													
Vacant	Undesignated													
Number Yes	0	1	9	1	7	11	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	3

Discussion on 45 – 54. Proposals set up a dangerous precedent for areas with predator pits.

XI. Set next meeting date

XII. Other

XIII. Adjourn

XIV.



XV. Motion to adjourn – Jeff

XVI. Andy Second

Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: Ian Johnson
Minutes Approved By: Casey McConnell
Date: 1/6/23